

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

August 22, 2012

Dear Parents,

We are glad to welcome you and your child to the 5th grade academic team. The 5th grade team includes Ms. Kraft, Ms. Manuel, Mrs. Peterson and Ms. Yigzaw. Ms. Kraft and Ms. Manuel will teach a block of math and science, while Ms. Peterson and Ms. Yigzaw will teach a block of reading and social studies. Students in 5K and 5P will have Ms. Kraft for math and science, as well as Ms. Peterson for reading and social studies. Students in 5M and 5Y will have Ms. Manuel for math and science, as well as Ms. Yigzaw for reading and social studies. You will have an opportunity to meet the 5th grade team at our curriculum presentation on Thursday, September 20.

I. SUPPLY LIST (PLEASE LABEL ALL SUPPLIES):

One (1) book bag or backpack
One (1) plastic accordion expanding file binder with at least 7 pockets
Ten (10) pocket folders (2 red, yellow, green, blue, orange)
One (1) package dry erase markers
Two (2) packages square Post-Its
Two (2) containers of GREEN WORKS Clorox biodegradable cleaning wipes
One (1) eraser
One (1) package colored pencils
One (1) package washable markers
One (1) 12" ruler w/ inches and centimeters
One (1) pair scissors
One (1) TI-15 calculator (can be ordered through school in Sept. 2012)
One (1) old, clean sock
One (1) flashdrive (512 mb) with lanyard
One (1) yellow highlighter
Three (3) package loose leaf paper (wide ruled)
Two (2) glue sticks
Two (2) packages 4 x 6 index cards (lined)
Two (2) large boxes of tissues
Two (2) red ink pens
Two (2) black or blue pens (erasable recommended)
Ninety-six (96) #2 pencils (Dixon Ticonderoga preferred - NO mechanical pencils)
One (1) pencil case
One (1) set of inexpensive headphones
One box of Ziploc bags—
Last Name A-H Snack Size, I-P Sandwich Size, Q-Z Gallon Size

Students must have their accordion expanding file folder with planner and all necessary classroom materials (i.e: pencil, paper, textbook) in class each day. After the first month of school, students will be strongly discouraged from going to their lockers for these items during class. After winter break, we may ask for additional supplies if we are running low.

II. HOMEWORK

For your benefit, we write a **weekly** fifth grade newsletter. The newsletter will be posted on the 5th grade Wiki every Monday. If you would like a paper copy of the newsletter, please let your child's homeroom teacher know. You will find tests and long-term assignments included with the updates. PLEASE read the newsletter each Monday. Each student will also have an assignment notebook, which has been provided by Holmes School. These are valuable tools for us in our school-to-home communication.

Written assignments and study time will be assigned Monday through Thursday nights. You can expect that your child will have approximately 50 minutes of homework Monday through Thursday. Weekend assignments may sometimes be necessary. It is very important that homework is completed when assigned. Homework will be posted weekly on the 5th grade Wiki as well as on the individual teacher web pages. However, each day, students will be asked to write that evening's assignments in their assignment notebooks as assignments may change depending on what was accomplished during the school day. A student with a missing assignment may be asked to complete the assignment during lunch recess.

Parents, please check the assignment book nightly to see if your child is writing down homework assignments.

III. GRADES

Trimester grades will be determined based on homework, class work, tests, completion of projects in a timely fashion, and class participation. A parent/guardian signature will be requested on all graded unit tests and major projects as an acknowledgement that the student has reviewed the test/project with a parent or guardian. Report cards will be distributed approximately two weeks after the end of the trimester. Please sign the report card envelope and promptly return to your child's homeroom teacher.

IV. TEAM RULES AND CONSEQUENCES

Holmes is a Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) school. Our school rules are:

Be Respectful
Be Responsible
Be Powerful through Peace

Students who choose to break the rules will receive appropriate consequences. Quality of student work and student behavior impact participation in special nonacademic activities (Guilder activities).

REWARDS

Team and individual rewards will be given to students who have consistently completed assignments and demonstrated appropriate behavior. These include feather awards, Guilders (5th grade currency), class activities, and others.

CONSEQUENCES

Behavior not in keeping with classroom rules will result in a consequence. Possible consequences include the following: warning, student conference, loss of privileges, parent contact, office referral, and/or suspension. See the summary of the 5th grade token economy for more details.

V. READING OLYMPICS

Listed below are the names of the Reading Olympics books the students will be reading this school year if they sign up to participate, along with the dates of each competition. It is one of the enrichment activities we highly encourage for all students. The students work in groups of three and divide the number of books between them. There is a school competition to determine Holmes School's best team. That team advances on to the district level, which includes Oak Park and River Forest 5th graders.

Reading Olympics 2012/2013

DATES:

Fall: Friday, Dec. 7 2012

Spring: Tuesday March 19, 2013

Extreme: Tuesday, April 23, 2013

Fall List

Children of the Fire by Harriet Robinet

Heat by Micheal Lupica

Honus and Me by Dan Gutman

Long Way from Chicago by Richard Peck

Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of N.I.M.H. by Robert C. O'Brien

Silverwing by Kenneth Oppel

Skull of Truth by Bruce Coville

Strange Case of Origami Yoda by Tom Angleberger

Time for Andrew by Mary Downing Hahn

Spring List

Among the Hidden by Margaret Peterson Haddix

Because of Mr. Terupt by Rob Buyea

Born to Fly by Michael Ferrari

Out of my Mind by Sharon Draper

Swindle by Gordon Korman

The Thing about Georgie by Lisa Graff

View from Saturday E. L. Konisberg

When the Tripods Came by John Christopher

Parents, you are valuable members of our team. The time you spend helping your child is greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact us with any concerns, questions, issues, or thoughts on how to enhance our approach to your child's education. E-mail is our preferred method of communication and our addresses are listed on the District's website.

Please read and discuss this information with your child. After you have discussed this with your child, please complete the form on the next page and return it to your child's homeroom teacher. **Signed forms are due this Friday, August 24.** We are looking forward to working with you this year!

Sincerely,

Ms. Kraft
Ms. Manuel
Mrs. Peterson
Ms. Yigzaw

Return to teacher by Friday, August 24

I have read the letter from the 5th grade team and discussed rules and consequences with my child.

Child's Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION

We feel that parent involvement is a crucial to your child's success in school. We appreciate any way that you can support our team. Please read the weekly newsletter for volunteer opportunities.

Child's name: _____

Parent signature: _____

Date: _____

Please circle your preferred method of communication

Name: _____ Name: _____

e-mail: _____ e-mail _____

Home phone: _____ Home phone: _____

Cell phone: _____ Cell phone: _____